



**A Message  
From  
The  
Secretary**

Every year Independence Day provides us a wonderful opportunity to stop and think about the freedoms we have in this beautiful country and to thank the men and women who fight and have fought for those freedoms. I hope you found time during this extended holiday to enjoy family and friends!

As we did last year, during the latter part of July, the KDHE management team and I will take to the highways of Kansas for the District Office Tour to begin visits with our wonderful field staff, starting in Dodge City July 26 and in Hays July 27. Additional dates will be announced in August. We look forward to seeing you and discussing the year ahead and the work you've been doing.

Two exciting contests are underway this summer at KDHE and we'd like you to encourage those you come in contact with to get involved. One is the Get Caught Recycling contest ([www.getcaughtrecycling.org](http://www.getcaughtrecycling.org)) offering scholarships and cash for artwork, writing, videos or Web site materials depicting recycling efforts in our communities. Another is the *HealthyKansas* Healthy Tip postcard contest ([www.healthykansas.org](http://www.healthykansas.org)) offering prizes for postcard art depicting ways to get healthier by increasing physical activity, improving nutrition and eliminating tobacco products. KDHE staff are invited to participate in the *HealthyKansas* contest, too!

During the month of August some exciting initiatives and ideas will be launched at KDHE and we can hardly wait to tell you the news and to get your participation in taking our agency in a new direction. You are our most valuable assets here at KDHE and we want you to enjoy what you do and be excited about where you work. Please stay tuned for details as we start on a new adventure together!

Be well,